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5 October 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR: [A specially-constituted Soviet "peace commission" has drafted proposals for ending the "cold war" which might be submitted to a summit meeting. These proposals, now being studied by party authorities in the USSR, reportedly include a treaty within the framework of the United Nations to end the "cold war," and an international commission vested with authority to condemn by name all "war provocateurs."]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

NO
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Indonesia: A small group of armed men, presumed to be rebels, are reported to have cut pipe lines and damaged storage tanks in the Shell and Standard Vacuum oil fields in South Sumatra on 30 September. The rebels told employees that the destruction was part of an over-all plan. [redacted]

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NO
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South Vietnam: Growing aggressiveness of Communist guerrillas in South Vietnam is reflected by attacks on company-sized units of regular South Vietnamese troops. On 26 September, two out of six companies making a security sweep about 50 miles west of Saigon near the Cambodian border were ambushed separately. One attack from ambush was repelled, but a second, carried out by an estimated 200-300 guerrillas, forced the army unit to surrender. This unit was released after turning over its equipment. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

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Iceland - Soviet bloc: On Soviet and East German insistence, negotiations for new trade agreements have been postponed until after Iceland's general elections on 25 and 26 October. Iceland's bloc trading partners seem intent on using their important position in Iceland's foreign trade to attempt to secure Communist participation in the postelection government. [redacted]
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Soviet Preparations for Summit Meeting

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A specially-constituted Soviet "peace commission" has drafted proposals for ending the "cold war" which might be submitted to a summit meeting,

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The Soviet Communist party now is examining a document prepared by the commission and known in central committee circles as the "treaty for the end of the cold war."

This document reportedly includes a treaty within the framework of the United Nations to end the cold war, and the creation of an international court or commission vested with powers to condemn by name all "war provocateurs," such as journalists and newspapers. Under this plan, parties to the treaty should introduce legislation enabling them to deal with offenders denounced by the international court.

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Although the existence of a Soviet "peace commission" cannot be confirmed, demands for an end to "war propaganda" have long been a favorite Soviet theme. Khrushchev's speech to the United Nations General Assembly on 18 September contained a program for ending the "cold war" which gave top priority to halting "appeals or calls for war." He also proposed the conclusion of a German peace treaty, expansion of "contacts" between peoples and statesmen, and admission of Communist China to the United Nations.

Khrushchev appears confident that his agreement with President Eisenhower that no time limit should be fixed for renewing negotiations on Berlin will clear the way for an early summit meeting. On his return to the USSR, Khrushchev told a Moscow rally he had discussed a summit meeting with the President and that they had "agreed that such meetings are needed and useful."

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

III. THE WEST

Iceland Under Pressure from Soviet Bloc

At the insistence of the USSR, the Icelandic Ministry of Commerce agreed in August to defer negotiations on a new three-year trade agreement from September until after Iceland's general elections on 25 and 26 October. The East Germans followed the Soviet lead and postponed until 29 October negotiations originally scheduled for 21 September on a new one-year trade agreement. The US Embassy in Reykjavik believes the bloc countries intend to use their important position in Iceland's foreign trade to attempt to secure Communist participation in the postelection government.

The bloc has a strong lever in its expanding trade with Iceland, which during the first half of 1959 accounted for 34.1 percent of Iceland's total foreign trade. While many Icelanders are concerned about this trend, some normally pro-Western groups regard it as a desirable development which will permit a greater diversification of markets despite the disadvantages in many cases of trading with bloc countries.

If the Communists make significant gains during the election, the Social Democratic leadership may come under pressure from its rank and file to abandon cooperation with the Conservatives and revive the leftist-oriented coalition which was in power from mid-1956 to 1958. Otherwise, the Communists are likely to use their strong position in the labor movement to bargain for representation in a Conservative - Social Democratic government.

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